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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 IO-12 RSR-01

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O R 111030 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0004
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
RUESDADAMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 397
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIAFZ
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AHCONSUL NHA TRANG 370
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 6140

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT - APRIL 11, 1973
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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
THE EMBASSY AS OF 2000 APRIL 11.

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SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

PART I: ICCS: LAO BAO ONLY ITEM ON APRIL 11 PLENARY AGENDA.

PART II: VC " FOREIGN MINISTRY" ISSUES STATEMENT ON QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT.

PART III: CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: 10,507 CHARGED.

PART IV: MR 1: LOWEST INCIDENT LEVEL IN A YEAR; HUE- DANANG TRAIN IN OPERATION.

PART V: MR 2: ARVN CONVOY TURNED BACK IN PHU YEN; KONTUM SIT-UATION WORSENS.

PART VI: MR 3: CG MR 3 PREDICTS VC/ NVA ATTACK IN MAY- JULY TIME PERIOD.

PART VII: MR 4: HONG NGU INCIDENTS LOW; ARVN CROSS- BORDER OPERATION POSSIBLE.

PART I - INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

THE LAO BAO INVESTIGATION WAS THE SOLE ITEM INSCRIBED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE APRIL 11 ICCS PLENARY SESSION.

PART II: VIET CONF " FOREIGN MINISTRY" ISSUES STATEMENT ON QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT.

APPARENTLY IN RESPONSE TO WHAT IT TERMED " SLANDERING ARGUMENTS" BY THE US AND GVN, THE VIET CONG " FOREIGN MINISTRY" ON APR. 11 ISSUED A FORMAL STATEMENT REGARDING SATURDAY' S DOWNING OF TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS. AS DID THE EARLIER COMMUNIQUE FROM THE VC QUANG TRI COMMITTEE, THE " MINISTRY" STATEMENT CALLED THE INCIDENT A " REGRETTABLE MISHAP", BUT IT WENT ON TO LAY DIRECT BLAME FOR THE DOWNINGS ON " U. S. CREWMEN" WHO " DID NOT ADHERE TO THE ESTABLISHED ITINERARY." THE STATEMENT ALSO TOOK PAINS TO NOTE THAT NOT JUST CONFIDENTIAL

ICCS PERSONNEL WERE KILLED BUT THAT TWO VIET CONG OFFICERS ALSO DIED IN THE CRASH. IT COMPLAINED THAT THE US AND GVN WERE " TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE INCIDENT TO STIR UP PUBLIC OPINION" TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THEIR " EXTREMELY SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT". THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED MENACINGLY WITH A PROPOSAL TO THE ICCS " THAT IN THE FUTURE STRICT INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE ISSUED TO ITS PILOT TEAMS IN ORDER TO AVOID SIMILAR INCIDENTS."

PART III: - CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

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OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS (VP) IN THE APRIL 11 PM EDITION CHARGED THE COMMUNISTS WITH 10,537 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS THROUGH 0600 APRIL 11. ENEMY CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 16,591 KIA AND 209 CIA. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 3,787 KIA, 18,263 WIA AND 1,030 MIA. IN ADDITION, 570 CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED, 1,643 WOUNDED AND 1,000 ABDUCTED.

PART IV: MR 1

1. INCIDENTS DROPPED TO THE LOWEST LEVEL WITHIN THE PAST YEAR; ONLY 8 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) WERE REPORTED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 2,022 ROUNDS; 1,339 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 683 SOUTH.

2. ON MORNING OF APRIL 11, ICCS REGION I HEADQUARTERS RECEIVED A BRIEF RADIO MESSAGE FROM ICCS TEAM INVESTIGATING THE APRIL 7 HELICOPTER INCIDENT IN WESTERN QUANG TRI STATING TEAM HAD VISITED LANDING SITE OF SERVICEABLE HELICOPTER #115 AND FOUND IT TO BE " APPROXIMATELY WHERE PRG SAID IT WOULD BE." CANDEL EXTAFF OFFICER CARLEBOIS " DID NOT PUT MUCH STOCK IN THE MESSAGE". (SEPTEL)

3. POLOFF IN HUE REPORTS THAT ALL DELEGATIONS OF ICCS REGION I ARE SHAKEN AND ANGERED BY THE DOWNING OF TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS AND THE LOSS OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL TEAM. ICCS MEMBERS ARE EXTREMELY BITTER ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PRG HANDLED THE INCIDENT, ALLOWING TWO DAYS TO PASS BEFORE CONFIRMING THE IDENTITIES OF THE DEAD AND SURVIVORS. CANADIAN EXTAFF OFFICER JEFFREY CHARLESBOIS NOTED THAT PRG THREATS TO THE SURVIVORS AND THE ATTEMPT TO BLACKMAIL THE ICCS GENERALS INTO SIGNING A STATEMENT " MAKES ONE WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THE PRG REALLY ARE." CHARLESBOIS WAS PLEASED THAT HTE INCIDENT
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HAD NOT CHANGED CANADA' S POSITION ON PARTICIPATION IN THE ICCS. DESPITE HIS PERSONAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ICCS, CHARLESBOIS FELT THAT CANADIAN WITHDRAWAL AT THIS TIME WOULD BE VIEWED AS COWARDICE.

4. ON APRIL 10, THE RVN ELEMENT OF THE TPJMC SUBMITTED TO ICCS

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COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 6140

REGION I A REQUEST FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ALLEGED CEASEFIRE VIOLATION AT HOANG HAU OBSERVATION POST (FIREBASE HELEN) IN WESTERN THUA THIEN. THE RVN CHARGES THAT ON APRIL 6 AND 7 THE COMMUNISTS SHELLED AND ATTACKED HOANG HAU CAUSING HEAVY RVN CASUALTIES.

5. THE CHIEF OF THE GVN RAILROAD AGENCY IN MR 1 REPORTS THAT AS CONFIDENTIAL

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OF APRIL 10, HE HAS A TOTAL OF TWO ROUND TRIP TRAINS BETWEEN DANANG AND HUE EACH DAY. HE IS HAULING APPROXIMATELY 500 PASSENGERS AND 100 TONS OF CARGO A DAY. (CONGEN COMMENT: THE OPENING OF THE RAILROAD FOR EVEN SUCH LIMITED SERVICE HAS GIVEN A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO THE GVN IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE OF MR 1, SIMILAR TO THE OPENING OF ROUTE I TO TRAFFIC FROM SAIGON. END COMMENT.)

PART V: MR 2

1. REPORTING PERIOD MARKED BY SERIOUS MILITARY ACTIVITY IN

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BINH DINH, PHU YEN, AND KONTUM. MINOR INCIDENTS ALSO REPORTED IN BINH THUAN AND PLEIKU. IN ALL THREE PROVINCES, ENEMY INFLICTED RELATIVELY HEAVY CASUALTIES ON RVNAF.

2. ARVN SUPPLY CONVOY NUMBERING 21 VEHICLES MADE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO TRAVERSE ROUTE 7 B FROM TUY HOA TO SON HOA IN PHU YEN PROVINCE. THIS MARKED FIRST ATTEMPT IN MORE THAN A YEAR TO PENETRATE THIS 50 KM STRETCH OF ROAD BY CONVOY. AT A POINT 14 KMS ENE OF SONG HOA, CONVOY STRUCK FIRST SET OF VC MINES. AFTER TRIGGERING A SECOND SET 100 METERS FURTHER ALONG THE ROAD, CONVOY REVERSED DIRECTION AND RETURNED TO TUY HOA. INCIDNET LEFT 18 ARVN WIA AND PUT THREE TRUCKS OUT OF COMMISSION. AN ARVN ENGINEERING COMPANY HAD JUST FINISHED SWEEPING THE ROAD OF MINES THE DAY BEFORE (APRIL 9).

3. THE SITUATION IN KONTUM, STEMMING FROM REPEATED VC ATTACKS ON RF POSITIONS SW OF KONTUM CITY HAS WORSENED IN LAST 24 HOURS. VC LAUNCHED ATTACK ON STILL ANOTHER RF OUTPOST, WHOSE OCCUPANTS BROKE AND RAN. TWO RF BATTALIONS ARE NOW IN THE AREA AND RVNAF HAVE EXPENDED 1,000 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY DURING LAST 24 HOURS. TACAIR HAS BEEN SUMMONED AS WEATHER PERMITS.

4. NATION- WIDE GROUNDING OF ICCS HELICOPTERS WHICH TOOK EFFECT APRIL 10 IS CAUSING CONCERN IN TRUCE REGION 3 HEADQUARTERS BECAUSE DUC CO AND BEN HET TEAMS HAVE FOOD SUPPLY ADEQUATE FOR ONLY FIVE DAYS.

PART VI: MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT MR 3 DROPPED CONSIDERABLY FROM YESTERDAY. SHELLING OF TONG LE CHAN DROPPED OFF TO 83
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ROUNDS. ELSEWHERE THERE WERE FOUR ATTACKS BY FIRE AND NINE MINOR GROUND CONTACTS.

2. THE XUAN LOC ICCS SUB- REGIONAL TEAM BEGAN ITS FIRST OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION THIS MORNING. THE LONG KHANH PROVINCE CHIEF HAS FINALLY GONE THROUGH THE PROPER PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING INVESTIGATIONS, AND THE TEAM HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM THE ICCS REGION V TEAM TO CONDUCT THREE INVESTIGATIONS. MEANWHILE, THE PHUOC TUY PROVINCE AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE NEW PROVINCE CHIEF, CONTINUE TO IGNORE PROPER PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING INVESTIGATIONS, THEREBY ANTAGONIZING EVEN THE FRIENDLY CANADIANS, BOTH IN XUAN LOC AND BIEN HOA.

3. MR 3 COMMANDERS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS, DURING APRIL 9 MEETING CHAIRED BY MR 3 CG LTG MINH, CONCLUDED THAT VC/ NVA MAY LAUNCH AN OFFENSIVE IN MAY- JULY PERIOD. MINH FELT THIS STRONGLY, REASONING THAT VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON, AND THE FACT THAT POLAND AND HUNGARY WILL CHAIR THE

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ICCS FOR TWO OF THESE THREE MONTHS POINT IN THIS DIRECTION. MR 3 G-2 DISAGREED, PREDICTING THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT LAUNCH A LARGE- SCALE OFFENSIVE IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT THEIR CURRENT MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. MINH ALSO INDICATED THAT JGS IS NOT AS CERTAIN ABOUT THE IMMEDIACY OF THE ATTACK AS HE IS, BUT THE JGS IS CONFIDENT GVN FORCES WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. HOWEVER JGS FELT THAT IF THE OFFENSIVE WERE ON A SCALE AS OCTOBER, GVN MIGHT HAVE DIFFICULTIES DUE TO LACK OF US AIR SUPPORT. MINH ADMONISHED HIS COMMANDERS FOR THE LACK OF COMBAT READINESS IN SOME OF THEIR UNITS. HE INSTRUCTED THEM TO IMPROVE TROOP MORALE, AND TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE SUPPLIES. MINH WAS (AS USUAL) CONFIDENT THAT MR 3 FORCES WOULD CRUSH ANY VC/ NVA OFFENSIVE.

PART VII: MR 4

1. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA RETURNED TO NORMAL CEASEFIRE LEVELS APRIL 10 POSSIBLY SIGNALING THE END OF A LUNAR DARK PHASE HIGH POINT. REPORTED VC INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE DOWN TO 47 APRIL 10, INCLUDING 36 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF).

2. THERE WERE ONLY 5 NVA/ VC INCIDENTS REPORTED FROM THE HONG NGU AREA, INCLUDING 2 ABF. THE ARVN IV CORPS BRIEFER MENTIONED APRIL 11 THAT ARVN UNITS HAD CONDUCTED A CROSS- BORDER OPERA-
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TION APRIL 10. THE BRIEFER GAVE NO DETAILS, BUT CONGEN UNDERSTANDS ARVN UNITS ATTACKED NVA UNITS IN CAMBODIA NEAR HONG NGU, PROBABLY TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON EMBATTLED HONG NGU DISTRIC.

3. AFTER INITIALLY ACCEPTING THE MR IV COMMANDER' S INVITATION TO INTERVIEW RECENTLY CAPTURED NVA PRISONERS, THE REGION VII POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATES BACKED OUT ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY HAD NO " EXPERTISE IN PRISONER MATTERS". THE COMMUNISTS TELEPHONED SAIGON FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND WERE APPARENTLY ORDERED NOT TO TALK TO THE NVA PRISONERS. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, THE GVN PRESENTED TO CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN ICCS REPRESENTATIVES TWO NORTH VIETNAMESE CAPTURED ON UNSPECIFIED DATES IN THE HONG NGU AREA. ONE ADMITTED TO INFILTRATING ON JAN 26, I. E. BEFORE THE CEASEFIRE. THE OTHER WAS UNCLEAR ABOUT THE EXACT DATE OF HIS INFILTRATION BUT WAS SURE IT WAS SOMETIME IN MARCH, AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS WILL FORWARD THEIR REPORTS ON THE INTERVIEW TO SAIGON.
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Message Attributes

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